

# The Watauga Democrat.

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## Free Tolls Repealed.

On the night of the 11th inst the bill for the repeal of free tolls for American coastwise shipping passed the senate by a vote of 50 to 35, a clear majority of 15. The repealing act carried the Simmons amendment which expressly reserves all rights we may have under the treaty with England, called the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. Thirteen republicans joined 35 democrats in favor of its passage, while eleven democrats, led by O'Gorman, the Tammany member from New York, fought the bill to the bitter end, thus joining forces with 24 dyed-in-the wool republicans. The senate has dwalled over this matter since March 31st, going over and over the same ground again and again. Not one new idea has been advanced since the house sent the bill to the senate. Every scheme and device known to the reactionary wing of the democratic party was resorted to to delay the vote, for it has been known for two months what the result would be.

There was method in this apparent madness; for close on the repeal of this bill was to follow the balance of the legislation demanded by President Wilson in order to complete the reform measures the democratic party promised the country it would pass if entrusted with power. By delaying the vote on the canal tolls, consideration of the trust bills would be correspondingly delayed. That is what the interests most fear—the passage of laws to prevent interlocking directorates, definition of what is restraint of trade, the appointment of a commission to advise corporations as to the proper observance of the trust laws etc. Now, that there is nothing to hinder, it remains to be seen just how many of the democrats who voted against the repeal of free tolls will vote against this anti-trust legislation.

Another motive has operated to influence both congressmen and senators—jealousy of Woodrow Wilson. All men see that unless he is broken down now he will sweep the country two years hence. The men who fought his nomination are fighting him still. Underwood, Clark, O'Gorman and other leaders opposed his nomination, and have fought him ever since, whenever they dared. But he has triumphed on every issue to date, and will triumph both in trust legislation and in the peaceful and permanent settlement of the Mexican situation. For he is a patriot, and the country is rapidly finding it out. He is making his administration one of service. He is carrying out the command of the meek and lowly Nazarene of "Bear ye one another's burdens," which is just another way of carrying out that "new commandment: that ye love one another."

The House accepted the bill as amended by a large majority.

## CURES STUBBORN, ITCHY SKIN TROUBLES

"I could scratch myself to pieces" is often heard from sufferers of Eczema, Tetter, Itch and similar skin eruptions. Don't scratch—Stop the itching at once with Dr. Hobson's Eczema Ointment. Its first application starts healing; the Red, Rough Scaly, Itching Skin is soothed by the healing and cooling medicines. Mrs. C. A. Einfield, Rock Island, Ill., after using Dr. Hobson's Eczema Ointment, writes: "This is the first time in nine years I have been free from the dreadful ailment." Guaranteed. 50c., at your Druggist.

Life is an earnest business, and no man was ever made great or good by a diet of nothing but broad grins.

## Two Standards.

Railroads insist that their property should be assessed for taxation on exactly the same basis as private property. But, when it comes to question of the basis upon which they should be allowed to earn dividends, the railroads insist that the basis should be, not the amount of money actually invested, but the amount upon which they have to pay interest, including a vast amount of bonus or gratuitous stock, issued without any valid consideration. This is manifestly unjust. If they pay taxes on the low assessment basis they should be restricted to that basis on the question of dividend earning. It is no answer to claim that private property is taxed on a lower basis of value than is railroad property, for private property holds no special franchise to make money out of the public. What it makes is earned in open market and in competition with all other private property. What the railroads make is out of the public necessities of travel and transportation of freight, and without competition in the territory over which each railroad runs. The courts say that railroads must be allowed to earn enough to pay the interest on its bonds, to declare reasonable dividends on its stock, and to improve and secure the upkeep of its property, but no more. All this is allowed them after paying all operating expenses. But private property rarely earns that much; for in estimating its earnings no account is taken of the time and services of the owners. After all the operating expenses of private property have been paid, improvements and renewals made, and the owner paid for his and his servants' expenses, time and labor, there is rarely any surplus left for dividends. Private property suffers losses from various causes just as do railroads from wrecks etc. All it should be required to pay to the State is the tax rate laid by law on its true value. That value should be determined by its earning capacity. The same should be true of railroads. The reason the State should not restrict the earnings of private property is because it enjoys no special privilege. The reason the State should restrict the earnings of railroads to a reasonable return on its earning power is because they hold special privileges, without which they could do nothing whatever.

There should be but one standard for the railroads, that of taxation or that of dividend earning. The railroads should not be allowed to earn dividends on a high valuation unless they pay taxes on that basis also.

## HOT WEATHER TONIC AND HEALTH BUILDER.

Are you run down—nervous—tired? Is every thing you do an effort? You are not lazy—you are sick! Your Stomach, Liver, Kidneys, and whole system need a Tonic. A tonic and health builder to drive out the waste matter—build you up and renew your strength. Nothing better than Electric Bitters. Start to-day. Mrs. James Duncan, Haynesville, Me., writes: "Completely cured me after several doctors gave me up." 50c and \$1.00 at your druggist. Bucklin's Arnica Salve for cuts.

Prof. B. B. Dougherty of Boone has been selected to conduct the Wilkes county Teachers' Institute, which will open in Wilkesboro on July 20th, and will continue for two weeks. Miss Hettie Aiken of Brevard will assist Prof. Dougherty in the work.—Wilkes Patriot.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## STATE AND GENERAL NEWS.

The free canal tolls bill has been passed by Senate and House and approved by the president.

The thermometer was 100 degrees in Charlotte on the 11th inst, and 104 in Greensboro.

Lightning killed four people in the Mint Hill section of Mecklenburg county on the 13th inst.

There were five burglaries at Raleigh during the night of June 14th, but only a small amount of loot was secured.

The governor of Montana has asked for federal troops to help restore order in the copper mines of that State.

The steamship New York was rammed by the Pretoria in a fog off Nantucket on the 13th inst. No one was hurt.

There is an epidemic of typhoid fever at Morehead city, and the N. C. Health Officers association have published a bulletin setting forth the facts.

Eighty one new doctors of medicine have been licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners in Raleigh for practice at various points in the State.

Admiral Fletcher, who took Vera Cruz, is to head the Atlantic Fleet, to succeed Rear Admiral Badger, when he completes his tour of service within the next few weeks.

Wm. G. Sharp of Ohio has been appointed by the president ambassador to France. Myron T. Herrick of the same State, and a republican hold-over is the present incumbent.

It was so hot in the Ashboro street church, Greensboro on Sunday night, June 14th, that the ladies asked the men to pull off their (the men's) coats, which they did gladly.

Children so mentally defective as not to be able to keep up with others of their age are to be taught separately in Asheville at the next term. They will be given more manual and less literary work.

Medals have been given to the officers and men who distinguished themselves when that city was taken, and a gratuity of \$100.—with honor medal will be given 11 enlisted men for extraordinary heroism.

The N. C. Press association will be held in Wilmington June 24th and 25th. They will be welcomed by Judge Roundtree. It is hoped that Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, will be present, though not certain.

A 300 ton dredge boat passed entirely through the Panama canal week before last in less than nine hours. President Wilson and cabinet, aboard the old battleship Oregon, will make the first official trip through the canal next March or April.

## AN OUNCE

of medicine from our brand new stock of drugs, just opened in Blowing Rock cannot fail to give complete satisfaction, as it is all absolutely fresh from the crucibles of the manufacturing chemists. People cannot get sick in Blowing Rock but some are sick when they arrive and need our remedies

### OF PREVENTION

all maladies are, however, better than first catching and then curing them. Keep well therefore, by patronizing our new, up to date soda fountain; at which all the most fetching and delicious beverages are dispensed.

### AT MORPHEW'S DRUG STORE

A box of our delicious candy will bring both health and happiness to your self or anyone else, and is warranted to deserve "a bushel and a peck (of love) and a hug around the neck" from your best girl provided she is not too large. A box of writing paper

### IS WORTH A POUND

of happiness to anyone and will insure an answer from "him" or "her" every time. If you buy enough of it and write frequently, the "proposal" or the fatal "yes" is warranted in every instance if used according to directions. Our new, rare and useful fancy articles cannot be surpassed. Our standard drugs and remedies with Blowing Rock Breezes are better than tons

### OF CURE ELSEWHERE

for they bring health which abides. All cheap, for cash, and no questions asked at Morphew's New Blowing Rock Drug Store.

A special to the Charlotte Observer states that lightning struck the dwelling house of Mrs. Bessie A. Patterson at Blowing Rock on the 12th inst. doing considerable damage and endangering the lives of its inmates.

Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois vice president during Cleveland's second term, died June 13th in a Chicago hospital. He was born in Kentucky in 1835, and some of his ancestors went west from North Carolina. He leaves three children.

Charles E. Trull, who killed and robbed Swain, a merchant in Charlotte, last May, was convicted of murder in the first degree on the 13th inst, and sentenced to be electrocuted August 14th next. Judge Shaw wept when passing sentence on him.

The president charges that there is a lobby at work to defeat the passage of all further trust or anti-trust legislation at this session of congress, and quotes numerous letters and telegrams sent out by the interests for that purpose.

Leader Oscar Underwood favors an early adjournment of Congress in order to give time for the study of the president's anti-trust legislation program; but from this the president dissents, insisting that business will suffer from longer delay and uncertainty.

Senator Overman sent a wreath for the funeral of Eliza Johnson who died in Salisbury on the 12th. She was a colored woman who had been in the Senator's family for several years, while her husband, long since dead, had been a devoted friend to Senator Vance and popular in Washington, D. C.

W. G. Newman thinks he has discovered a gold mine in Rowan county which will yield \$60,000,000, in gold. He got Senator Overman's lady stenographer to copy some letters boosting the mine on stationary of the Senate Rules committee of which Senator Overman is chairman, and the senator has asked for an investigation.

Ex-senator William Lorimer, who was unseated as a senator from Illinois was interested in five state banks in and near Chicago, all of which have been closed by the State bank examiner, though later on they were re-opened by men who deposited one million dollars therein. Mr. Lorimer is said to be almost broken down by reason of this loss.

Admiral Sir Percy Scott of the British navy is of the opinion that the big battle-ship has seen its best days, and that the submarine and recent rapid improvement of the torpedo will ultimately displace it. He recommends that England build no more dread naughts, and that fast cruisers, large submarines and naval airplanes be substituted therefor.

## For All-Day Battle With Giant Sea Bat.

A great sea bat weighing more than a ton was captured in Mobile bay by Thos. C. Cairns, of Birmingham, after an all day battle and 25 men hauled it out at Bayou la Batre. It had towed a powerful gasoline launch for six hours.

The fish was 14 feet across the back and 10 feet 6 inches from the mouth to the beginning of the tail. Though it was not weighed, old fishermen believe that it is the largest specimen ever landed in the Gulf of Mexico. The other one caught near Mobile weighed 2,500 pounds, it is said. This was 50 years ago.

Mr. Cairns says that the fish was sighted at Dauphin Island in the early morning. The launch was driven alongside and a harpoon thrown into the fish. The harpoon was attached to 600 feet of one-quarter inch sash cord. The fish towed the 18-foot launch occupied by Mr. Cairns and the boatmen, developing a high rate of speed. Several times when the fish would come to the surface Mr. Cairns would fire at it with a .38-caliber revolver, but with apparently no effect.

Finally, late in the afternoon, the fish was tired out and towed alongside the tug Laura. Next morning the Laura towed the launch and the devil fish into Bayou la Batre. Mr. Cairns says the harpoon lines were put over the stern of the launch and the engine run ahead for six hours in an effort to tire out the monster.

When Bayou la Batre was reached it required 25 men to haul the monster up on the beach. No scales large enough to weigh the fish were available at Bayou la Batre, but old fishermen guessed the weight of the monster. Sometimes called a sea bat, at more than 2,000 pounds.—Mobile dispatch, June 13.

## Vice—Evil

We have undoubtedly come upon one of the most salacious eras in the history of the world. Society reeks with filth unspeakable. Literature is bearing in abundance the apples of lustful Sodom. The streets of the city are infested with denizens of the underworld, and the cancer of vice is eating away at the vitals of the race.

And there is not the slightest question that for much of the wickedness of the day whiskey is directly responsible. The whiskey mania and the vice mania are twin sisters of darkness. If the first could be cured, the last would be checked.—Ex.

We are told that Mrs. A. D. Kelly who lives near Osgood has a hen 20 years old. She was first owned by the late Henry Spivey. A horse stepped on her a few years ago and broke her leg. She is now unable to fly but is still laying.—Sanford Express.

The time has about passed when the poor man, who gets drunk was made to pay damages by imprisonment, while the rich man, who got intoxicated, could pay his in dollars and cents, and still be proclaimed a "leading citizen."

There is nothing wonderful in the fact that a horse does not run away when he sees an automobile. But a horse is entitled to some credit for not running away when he sees a girl wearing a purple hat with a four-foot cerise bow, a yellow waist with blue trimmings, and a red skirt with two green potato sacks hanging on her hips.

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